

The Dead Horse DISPATCH

Marpril 2009

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

Ranger's Quarter's News

Eagle Project Helps DHRSP



Volunteer Norm Hephner helps volunteer Jim Harris construct a "peep" corner in the chicken coop they built behind Assistant Manager George Christianson's residence. The chickens are a 4-H project for George's daughters, but all of the rangers and their families who live in the park are looking forward to fresh eggs in the near future.

submitted by Nan Hephner



A herb garden and strawberry bed are new additions behind the residence of Volunteer Coordinator Eric Buzonas. They are still under construction, with water lines being added so the beds can be kept watered during the growing months. Eric is enjoying working in the dirt and is already looking forward to sharing the harvest.



Assistant Manager George Christianson helped Boy Scouts of Troop 21 with their ramp and parking project at the Cooper's Hawk restroom in March. Pouring the handicapped accessible ramp and parking space was the Eagle Scout Project of Tanner Johnson (inset photo). Scouts assisting Tanner with the project included Travis Roske, Josh Stuart, Russ Johnson, Dustin Alcala, Shawn Willoughby, Max Openshaw and Jordan Langfold. Hanson cement Co. and Cemex were also important in completing the project. submitted by Jim Harris

DHRSP Interpretive Programs Take Off

Smiles ruled the night at the first interpretive program held at DHRSP this spring. More than 80 people came to hear Harpy Trails, stories and music of the Southwest by Ken and Lyn Mikell of Cottonwood. The programs are held Friday and Saturday



evenings at the Quail Loop Amphitheatre and are sponsored by the Verde River Greenway and organized by Greenway Volunteer Bill Turner. Other park volunteers help serve hot beverages and cookies to the guests.

Agenda For Interpretive Programs

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| 4/4 - Apache Culture Kit | 5/08 - Birds of Prey |
| 4/10 - Birds of Prey | 5/09 - Gunfight at the OK Corral |
| 4/11 - Music & Ritual of AZ Native Americans | 5/15 - Bat's are Where It's At |
| 4/17 - Birds of Prey | 5/16 - Close Encounters of the Reptilian Kind |
| 4/18 - AZ Condors - Kathy Sullivan | 5/22 - Adobe Mountain Wildlife - Russ Smith |
| 4/24 - Ancient Dreams - Wolfs Robe | 5/23 - General Crook & Sierra Madre Adventure |
| 4/25 - Birds of Prey | 5/24 - Close Encounters of the Reptilian Kind |
| 5/01 - The Camp Grant Massacre, 1871 | <i>Quail Loop Amphitheater</i> |
| 5/02 - John Wayne an American Icon | |

Horseshoe Winners



Volunteer Jim Aker (left) and Ranger Justin Swiger (right) were the proud winners of the 2009 Dead Horse Ranch Horseshoe Throwing contest. Volunteer John Ward (center) organized the event and holds the plaque which honors past and present winners.

Horseshoe Cheerleaders



Attempting to perform the wave, the cheering section at the horseshoe finals erupted into shouts whenever ringers were thrown and jeers when there were near misses. The finals were Wednesday, March 27.

Audra's shower

The volunteers and ranger's wives put together a baby shower for Audra Christianson, wife of Assistant Manager George Christianson, in March. A pink frosted cake welcomed the new baby due to arrive April 13.



New Bridge Connects DHRSP to Tuzigoot NP



Left off of Tavaschi Marsh Trail is a new bridge crossing over the stream to the Mesquite forest and the Verde River, at the foot of Tuzigoot NP. submitted by Trish Muchler

SoWestern Chili Cookoff



(L) Bob Akey & his cow; winners of the milking contest Kayla & Macee.

(R) winners of Chili Cook-off 1st place John Ward & Bill LaFleur; 2nd place Wayne & Helen Kemp; 3rd place Les Bovee. (LL) SoWestern



Volunteer Group chowing down. (LR) Chili Judges: Volunteer Norm Hephner; Ranger Brandon Baeuerlen; Interpretive Education Planner "Boss Tweet" Barbie Hart



Lagoon's Best Fishing



Brandy & Brian Karraker of Surprise, AZ, caught a large mouth bass at DHRSP middle lagoon, weighing in at 5 1/4 pounds. Caught with pink PowerBait while he was fishing for trout. submitted by Ranger Randy Victory



DHRSP Weekly Gathering



Volunteers at Dead Horse decided to hold the weekly Thursday night gathering at Raven Loop in late March. A warm fire was welcome as the evening grew cooler. (L-R) Karen & Emerson Trushell and Judi & Keith Mangels.

Thank you for sending us the Dead Horse Dispatch newsletter. We have good memories of our time at DHRSP. (Beginning Fall of 2000 and ending in Spring of 2003) We are enjoying Winters in Arizona too having come from Florida (where we volunteered in a State Park near Gainesville) and at present are at River Island State Park near Parker, Arizona. Home is still South Dakota (for six months) then on the road again to visit family in Illinois and Florida. Greet Jim and Maryan for us and also Laurie Blitsch.

Emmo and Shirley Oltmanns



Spotted this winter was a misplaced pelican, catching fish in the Lagoons.